Similarly, the data regarding number of post-graduate students passing out of these Universities is not maintained Centrally. This is because in some of the States where University of Health Sciences have been established, the post-graduate courses continue to be affiliated with General Universities. Hence, the data cannot be segregated. There are approximately 8000 post-graduate recognized seats in various disciplines in various medical colleges all over India.

Export and import of tea

*193. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export and import status of tea during the last three years, year-wise and the future prospects;

(b) the reason for overall decline in the share of Indian tea in the world market and the action contemplated to aggressively capture the world market;

(c) whether a Tea Registering Authority as provided under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 is functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the authority to ensure fulfilment of requirements for determination of reasonable price of green leaf and the achievement so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Details of the exports and imports of tea during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity million kgs).	Value (in (Rs. in crores)	Quantity (in million kgs)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	203.55	1889.79	15.23	95.47
2001-02	190.00	1695.79	16.02	82.70
2002-03	184.40	1665.04	19.67	90.91

The export of tea from India during the year 2003-04 has shown a decline. During the period April-October, 2003, the exports were 94.63

million kgs. as against 120.73 million kgs. during the corresponding period of 2002-03. Likewise, the import of tea into the country has also witnessed a decline. 4.23 million kgs. of tea was imported into the country during the period April-October, 2003 as against 14.92 million kgs. imported during the corresponding period of 2002-03. It is estimated that total tea exports and imports during 2003-04 would be around 166 million kgs. and 7.50 million kgs. respectively.

(b) The major reasons for overall decline in the share of the Indian tea in the world market are the stiff competition being faced from other producing and exporting countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Kenya, various tariff and non-tariff measures imposed by some of the tea importing countries like Russia, Egypt and Iran, lower off-take by Russia due to change in consumer preferences, the Iraq war and-higher prices of Indian tea due to high cost of production.

With a view to boost the exports of tea, Tea Board is implementing a medium term export strategy prepared through private consultants. Tea Board has taken various steps which include encouraging production of quality teas specially orthodox type of teas, providing financial assistance to exporters for meeting part of their cost of handling, freight, packaging and value addition, registration of Tea Board Logo and speciality Tea Logo in major tea importing countries, participation in major trade fairs/ exhibitions abroad, lending promotional support to Indian exporters in marketing Indian brands, field sampling at speciality stores and in principal markets, launching media campaigns to increase consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas, exchange of tea delegations etc.

(c) and (d)The Registering Authority under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 is the Chairman, Tea Board. The function of the Registering Authority is to register manufacturers and primary buyers of tea. Under the provisions of TMCO, 2003,3573 buyers have so far been registered. Besides, the Registering Authority has also granted new registration in favour of 38 manufacturers since January, 2003.

(e) In order to ensure reasonable prices for green tea leaves to the small tea growers, based on the sharing of sale proceeds from made tea, a study was commissioned by the Tea Board through the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI) to ascertain the cost of production fo green leaves in small growers' holdings as well as the

manufacturing cost of tea. Based on the findings of ICWAI, Tea Board has proposed a price sharing formula.

Sagar Mala Project

*194. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Sagar Mala" project with a proposed investment of rupees one lakh nine thousand crores is being considered by his Minister;

(b) whether the existing and the proposed ports are being excluded from the purview of the Coastal Regulatory Zone Regulations which are at present in force;

(c) whether the project would be taken into account the needs of the landlocked States and the Union Territories and infrastructure requirements such as inland water transport etc.;

(d) how the project is proposed to be financed; and

(e) whether private sector participation in the project is envisaged and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) By public and private investment.

(e) Yes, Sir. On approval of the main features of Sagar Mala programme by the Competent Authority, the details for attracting private investment will be worked out.

World investment report of UNCTAD

*195. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the latest World Investment Report of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);